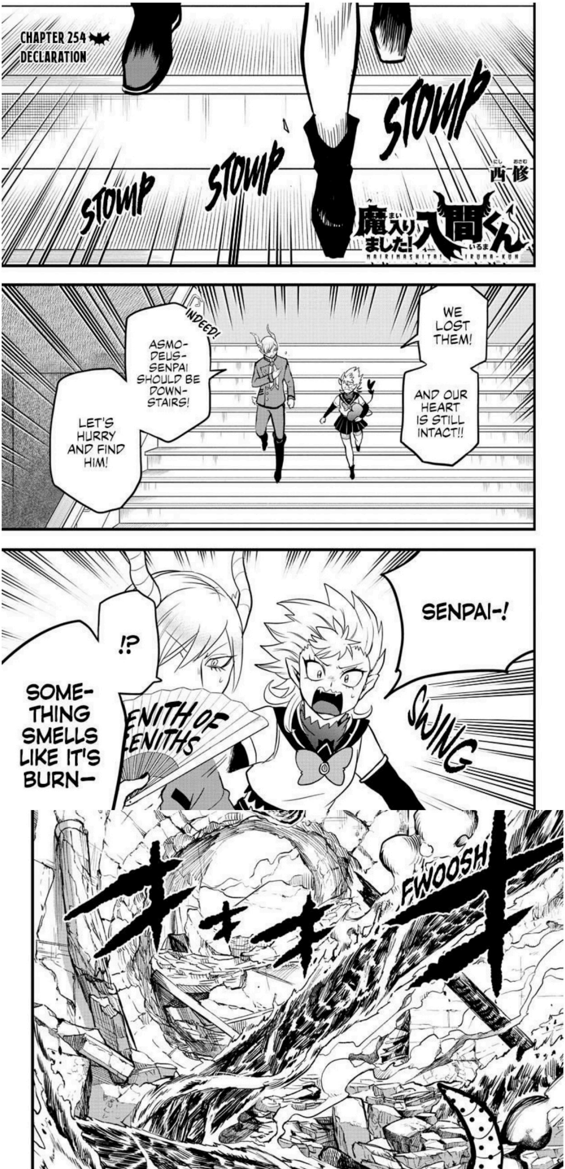
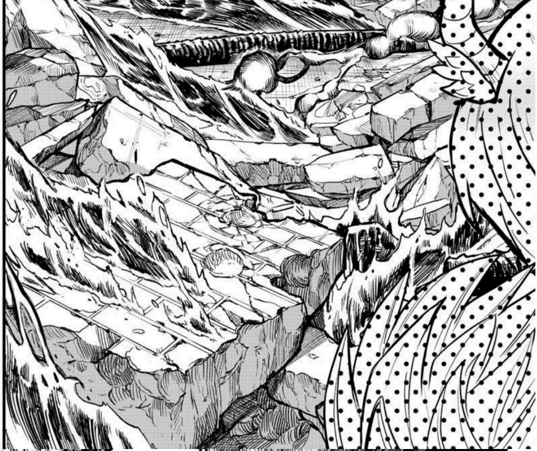
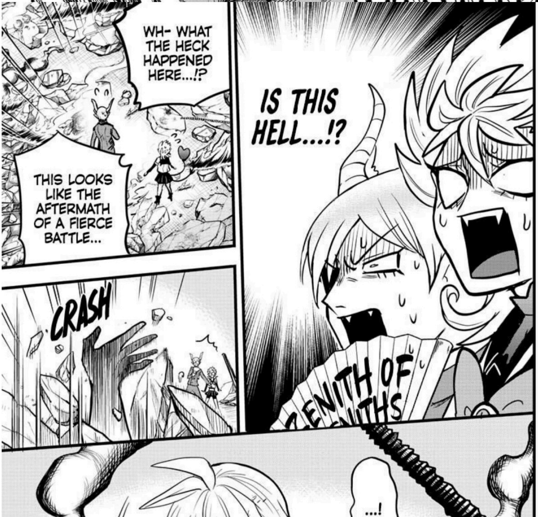
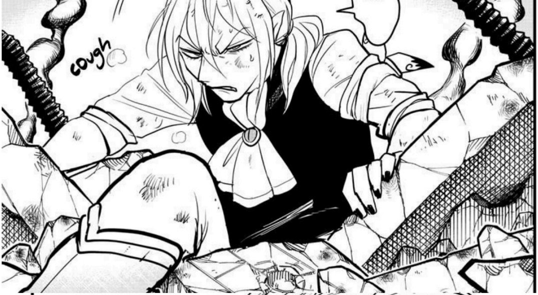
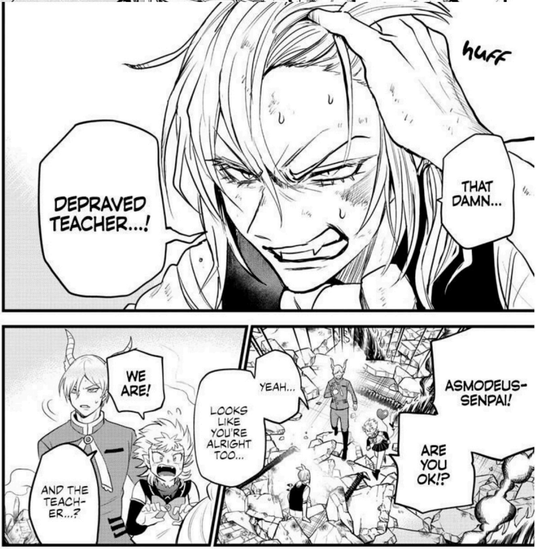
CHAPTER 254
DECLARATION

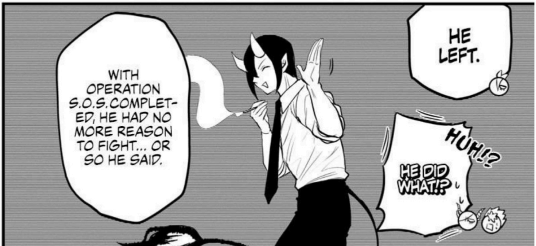

STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
西修
にし おさむ
魔入りました！入間くん
まい いるま
MAIRIMASHITA! IRUMA-KUN
WE LOST THEM!
AND OUR HEART IS STILL INTACT!!
INDEED!
ASMODEUS-SENPAI SHOULD BE DOWNSTAIRS!
LET'S HURRY AND FIND HIM!
SENPAI-!
SWING
!?
ENITH OF ENITHS
SOMETHING SMELLS LIKE IT'S BURN—
FWOOSH
オォォォ

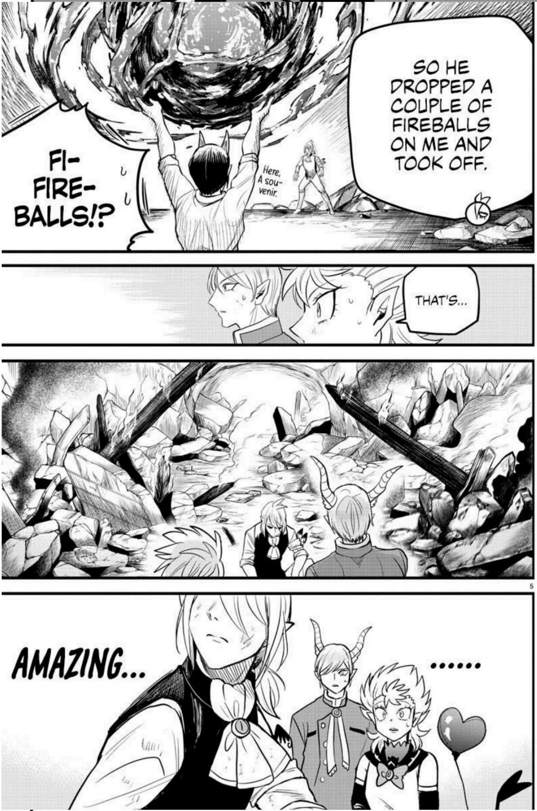


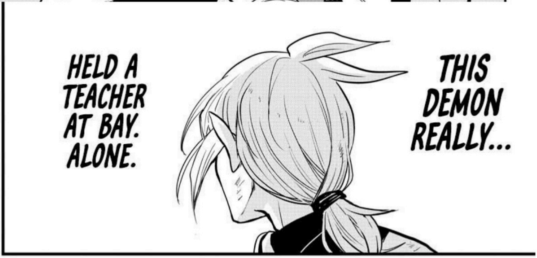

IS THIS HELL...!?
ZENITH OF ZENITHS
WH- WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED HERE...!?
THIS LOOKS LIKE THE AFTERMATH OF A FIERCE BATTLE...
CRASH
...!

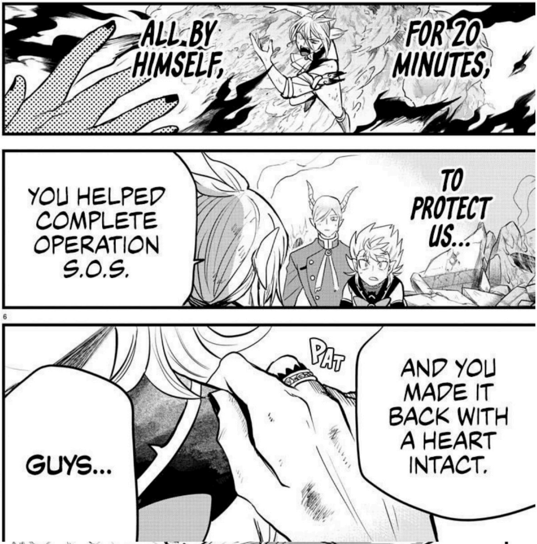


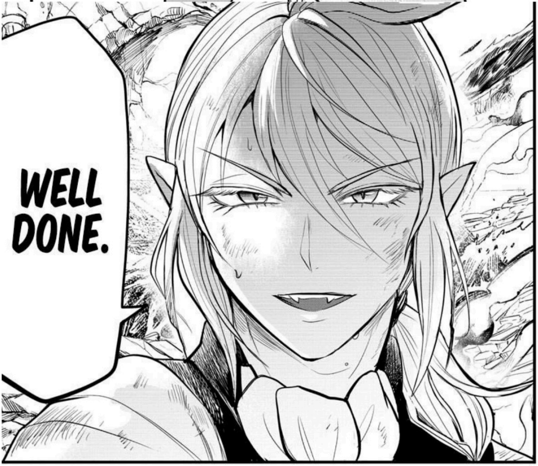

huff
THAT DAMN...
DEPRAVED TEACHER...!
ASMODEUS-SENPAI!
ARE YOU OK!?
YEAH...
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ALRIGHT TOO...
WE ARE!
AND THE TEACHER...?

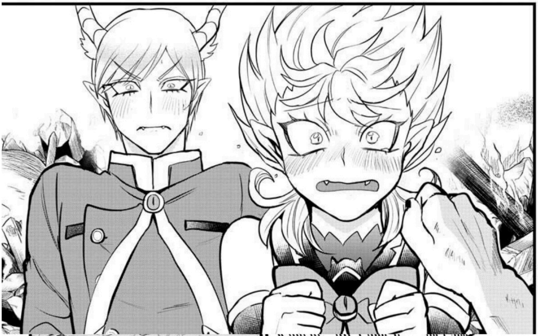

HE LEFT.
WITH OPERATION S.O.S.COMPLETED, HE HAD NO MORE REASON TO FIGHT... OR SO HE SAID.
HUH!?
HE DID WHAT!?

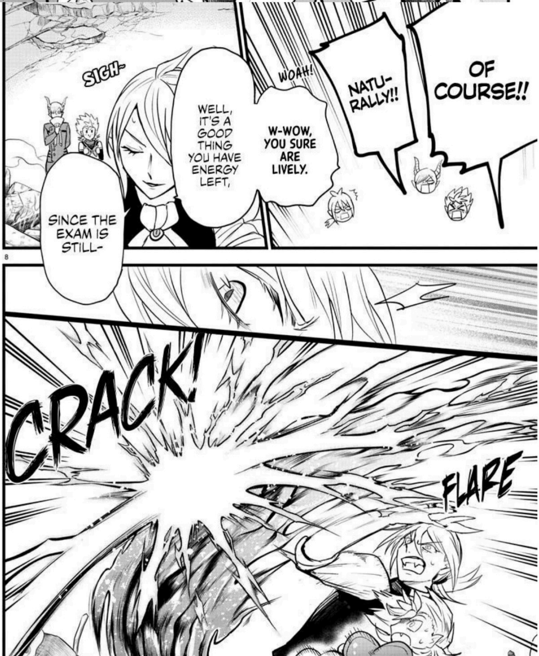

SO HE DROPPED A COUPLE OF FIREBALLS ON ME AND TOOK OFF.
Here, A souvenir.
FI- FIRE-BALLS!?
THAT'S...
......
AMAZING...

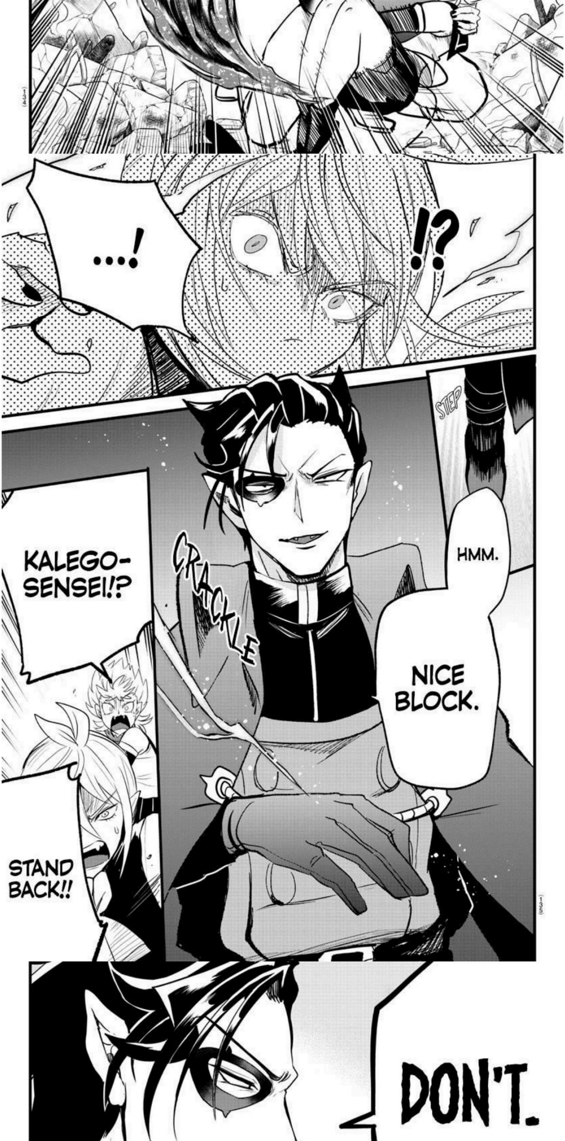

THIS DEMON REALLY...
HELD A TEACHER AT BAY. ALONE.

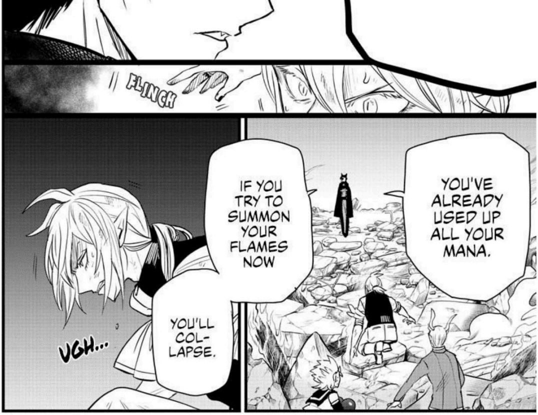

FOR 20 MINUTES,
ALL BY HIMSELF,
TO PROTECT US...
YOU HELPED COMPLETE OPERATION S.O.S.
AND YOU MADE IT BACK WITH A HEART INTACT.
PAT
GUYS...

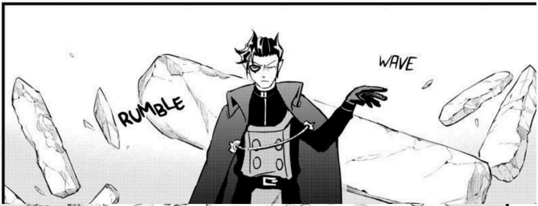


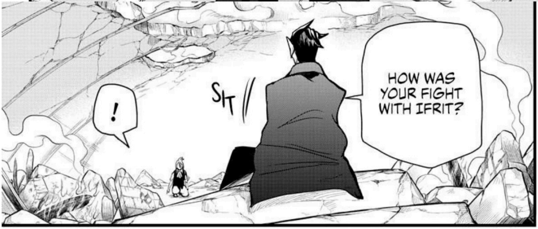


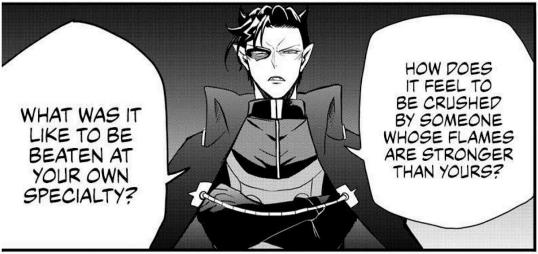

OF COURSE!!
NATU-RALLY!!
WOAH!
W-WOW, YOU SURE ARE LIVELY.
SIGH~
WELL, IT'S A GOOD THING YOU HAVE ENERGY LEFT,
SINCE THE EXAM IS STILL-
CRACK!
FLARE

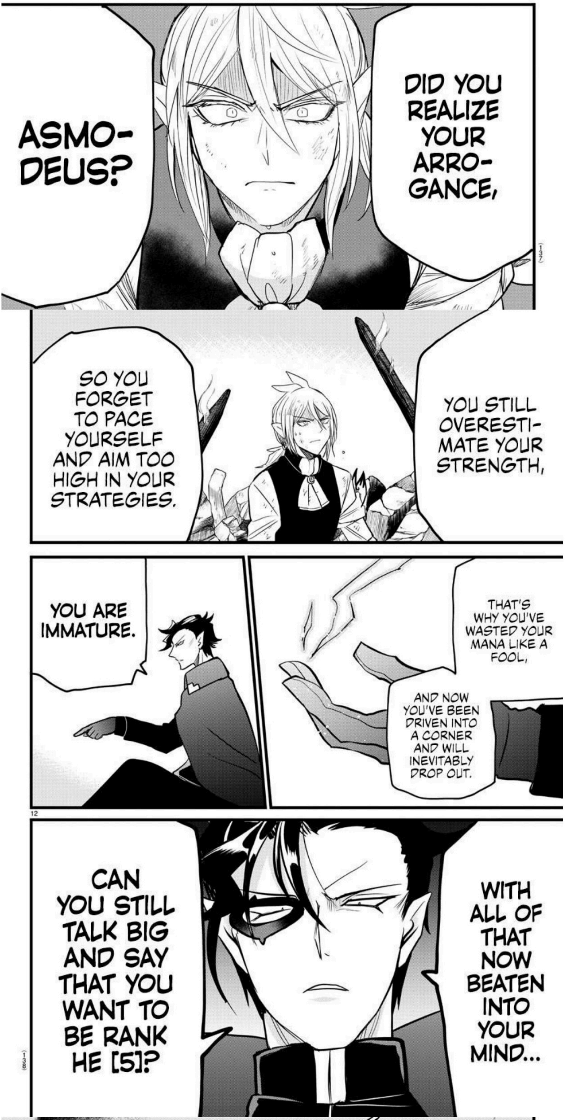

!?
...!
STEP
HMM.
NICE BLOCK.
CRACKLE
KALEGO-SENSEI!?
STAND BACK!!
DON'T.

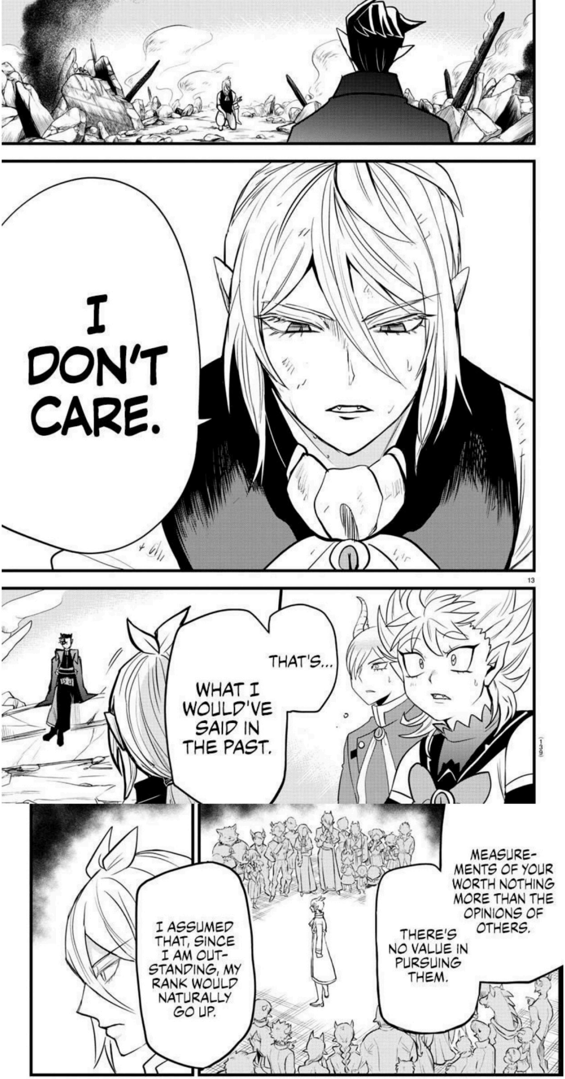

FLINCH
YOU'VE ALREADY USED UP ALL YOUR MANA.
IF YOU TRY TO SUMMON YOUR FLAMES NOW
YOU'LL COL-LAPSE.
UGH...

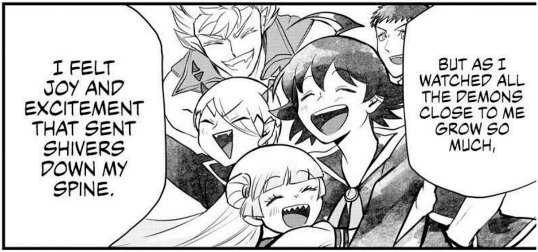

WAVE
RUMBLE

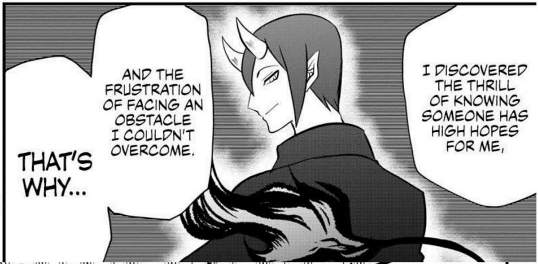

HOW WAS YOUR FIGHT WITH IFRIT?
SIT
!

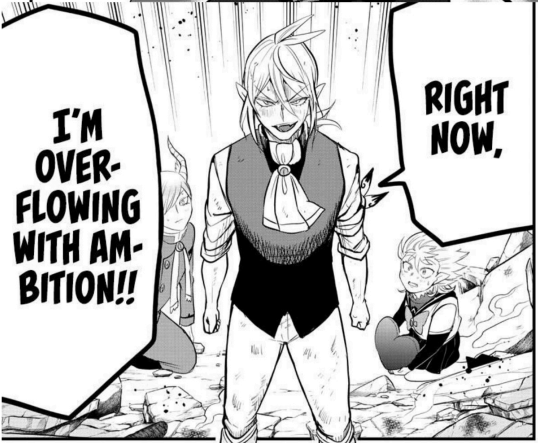

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE CRUSHED BY SOMEONE WHOSE FLAMES ARE STRONGER THAN YOURS?
WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO BE BEATEN AT YOUR OWN SPECIALTY?

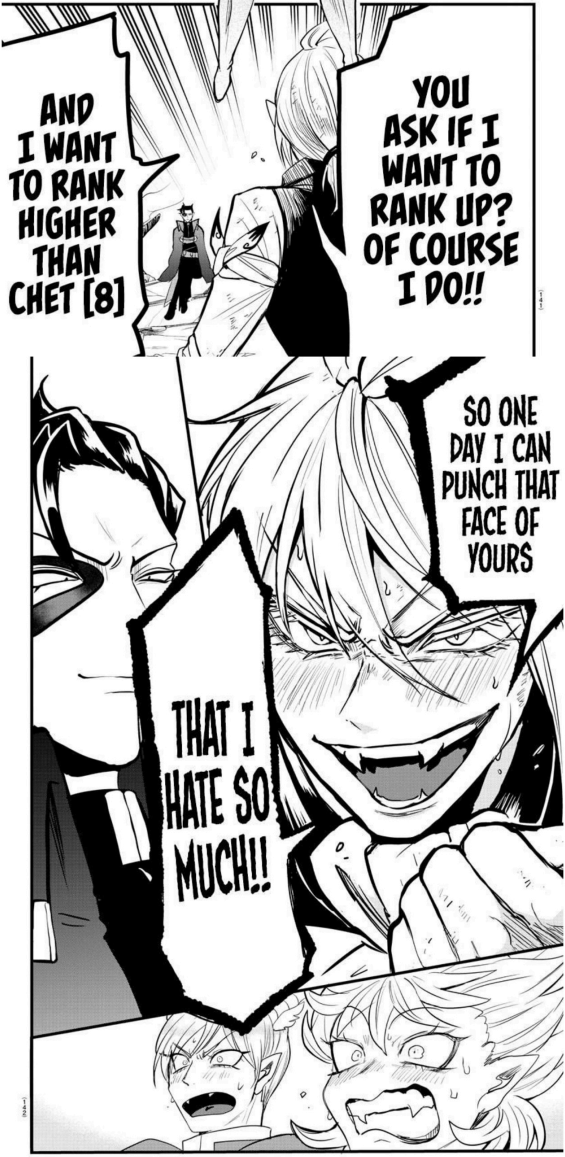

DID YOU REALIZE YOUR ARROGANCE,
ASMODEUS?
YOU STILL OVERESTIMATE YOUR STRENGTH,
SO YOU FORGET TO PACE YOURSELF AND AIM TOO HIGH IN YOUR STRATEGIES.
THAT'S WHY YOU'VE WASTED YOUR MANA LIKE A FOOL,
AND NOW YOU'VE BEEN DRIVEN INTO A CORNER AND WILL INEVITABLY DROP OUT.
YOU ARE IMMATURE.
WITH ALL OF THAT NOW BEATEN INTO YOUR MIND...
CAN YOU STILL TALK BIG AND SAY THAT YOU WANT TO BE RANK HE [5]?

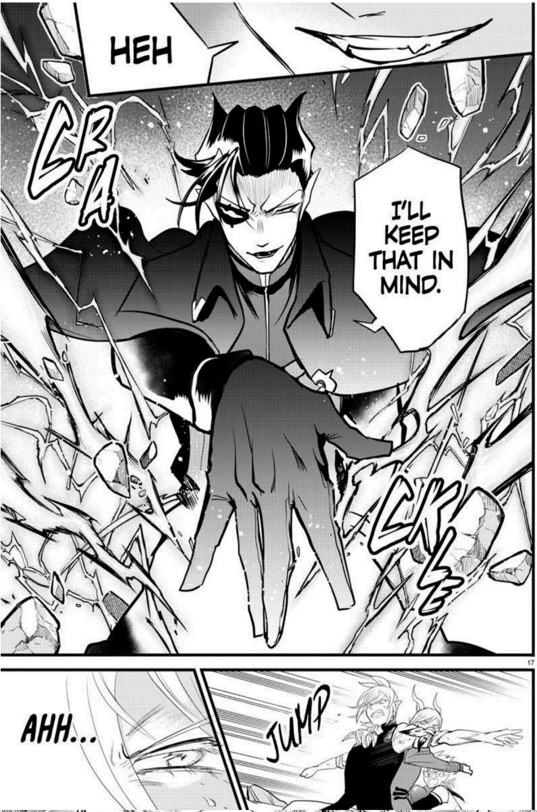

I DON'T CARE.
THAT'S...
WHAT I WOULD'VE SAID IN THE PAST.
I ASSUMED THAT, SINCE I AM OUTSTANDING, MY RANK WOULD NATURALLY GO UP.
MEASUREMENTS OF YOUR WORTH NOTHING MORE THAN THE OPINIONS OF OTHERS.
THERE'S NO VALUE IN PURSUING THEM.

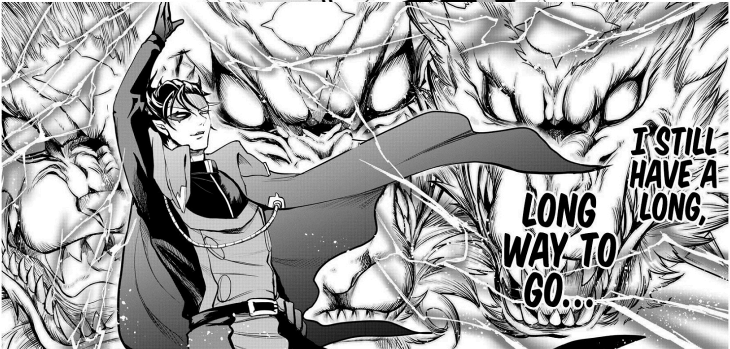
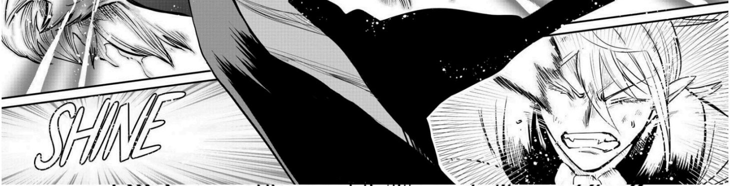
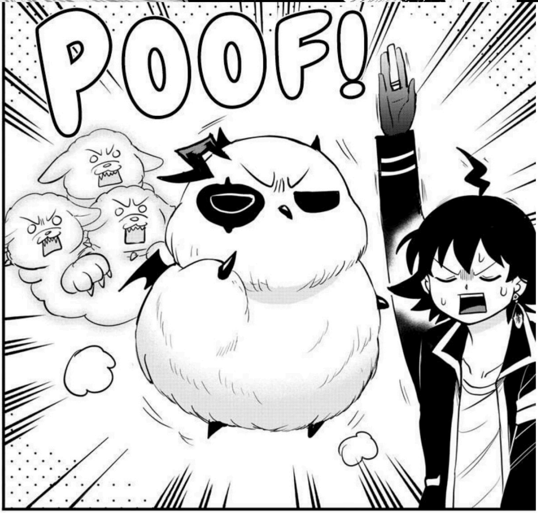
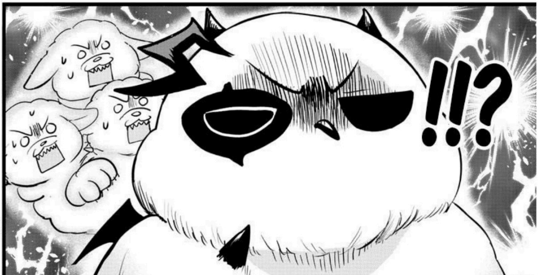
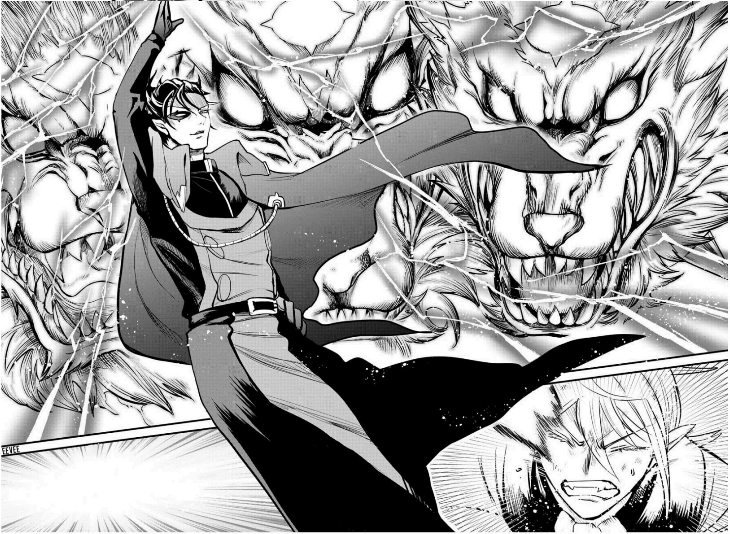

BUT AS I WATCHED ALL THE DEMONS CLOSE TO ME GROW SO MUCH,
I FELT JOY AND EXCITEMENT THAT SENT SHIVERS DOWN MY SPINE.


I DISCOVERED THE THRILL OF KNOWING SOMEONE HAS HIGH HOPES FOR ME,
AND THE FRUSTRATION OF FACING AN OBSTACLE I COULDN'T OVERCOME.
THAT'S WHY...


RIGHT NOW,
I'M OVERFLOWING WITH AMBITION!!


YOU ASK IF I WANT TO RANK UP? OF COURSE I DO!!
AND I WANT TO RANK HIGHER THAN CHET [8]
SO ONE DAY I CAN PUNCH THAT FACE OF YOURS
THAT I HATE SO MUCH!!


HEH
CRA
I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND.
CRKLE
JUMP
AHH...


I STILL HAVE A LONG, LONG WAY TO GO...